

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TRIEST 00412 081910Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
HA-05 /082 W  
-----026215 100256Z /70

R 081700Z SEP 78  
FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0961  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMCONSUL ZAGREB  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL PALERMO  
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS TRIESTE 0412

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IT  
SUBJ: DC SETBACK IN TRIESTE AS CECOVINI SUCCEEDS IN FORMING  
CITY GOVERNMENT

REF: A) TRIESTE 0371, B) TRIESTE 0310

1. TRIESTE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) HOPES OF HEADING A  
COALITION GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED ON AUG 29 WHEN "PER TRIESTE"  
LEADER MANLIO CECOVINI SUCCEEDED IN FORMING A MINORITY  
GOVERNMENT AFTER MORE THAN A MONTH OF EFFORT (SEE REFS).  
IT WAS ANOTHER SURPRISE FROM THE FLEDGLING PARTY WHICH HAS  
BEEN CONSISTENTLY UNDERESTIMATED BY POLITICAL OBSERVERS AND  
WAS NOT EXPECTED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT IN THE FACE OF DC/PCI/  
PSI OPPOSITION. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE ON  
SEPT. 1.

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2. SUPPORTED BY A PLURALITY SIX VOTES SHORT OF A MAJORITY,  
CECOVINI HAD FAILED IN PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT,  
AND HAD ANNOUNCED ON AUG. 9 THAT HE WAS RENOUNCING HIS  
ELECTION AS MAYOR. WITH THE FAILURE OF THE DC AND OTHER  
PARTIES TO AGREE ON A COALITION, HOWEVER, HE RE-ACCEPTED ON  
AUG. 24, STATING THAT HIS AIM IN FORMING A MINORITY GOVERN-

MENT WAS TO HAVE AN ADMINISTRATION IN PLACE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE OSIMO INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON SEPT. 11. HIS GOVERNMENT, CONSISTING SOLELY OF "PER TRIESTE" MEMBERS, IS SUPPORTED BY THE SAME "PER TRIESTE" (17 VOTES), RADICAL PARTY (3 VOTES), MOVIMENTO SOCIALE ITALIANO (NEO-FASCIST 4 VOTES) AND MOVIMENTO INDIPENDENTISTI TRIESTINI (1 VOTE) COMBINATION THAT ORIGINALLY ELECTED HIM MAYOR.

3. MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS, APPARENTLY INCLUDING CECOVINI HIMSELF, CONSIDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT S POSITION TO BE SHAKY AT BEST. IT MUST PASS A BUDGET BEFORE MAY 1979, AND

ANY NUMBER OF OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES COULD CAUSE IT TO FALL BEFORE THEN IF IT CANNOT MUSTER THE MINIMUM 31 VOTES NEEDED TO PASS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. NEVERTHELESS, AND IN SPITE OF THE PRIMARILY PAROCHIAL NATURE OF THE ISSUES (GENERALLY, RELATED TO OSIMO) WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO "PER TRIESTE" S ELECTORAL SUCCESS, THE LOSS BY THE DC OF ANOTHER MAJOR CITY, EVEN IF TEMPORARY, IS SIGNIFICANT.

4. ADDITIONAL BIO INFORMATION (SEE REF A): CECOVINI WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ITALIANS TO BENEFIT FROM THE OLD LEADER PROGRAM (NOW IV) WHEN HE RECEIVED A GRANT TO VISIT THE U.S. FROM JANUARY TO APRIL 1954. HE WAS CHIEF LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF THE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE AT THE TIME. SHINN.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MAYOR, POLITICAL PARTIES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TRIEST00412  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 TRIESTE 371, 78 TRIESTE 310  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1496724  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DC SETBACK IN TRIESTE AS CECOVINI SUCCEEDS IN FORMING CITY GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, IT, (CECOVINI, MANLIO)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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